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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE

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HURTS HARRISON

McGann, in His Anxiety to Please the Sidewalk-Controlling Trust Press, Raises Anger of Householders.

Spring Campaign Is Now Fully Under Way With Candidates for Every Place in the Running.

General Gossip from Municipal, County, State, Sanitary and Other Political Fields of Public Interest Up to Date.

What the Leaders in the Wards Are Doing for Their Country, for Themselves and for Their Friends.

The householders and property owners of Chicago are mad clear through.

Mayor Harrison is the objective point of their anger, although Commissioner of Public Works McGann is the real cause of it.

For eleven months of the year the city keeps telling householders that the sidewalks belong to the city.

If they wish to plant a tree in front of their homes, the city charges them \$2 for the privilege. If they wish to trim that tree, the city charges them for a permit to trim it.

The city permits public corporations to use sidewalk space without asking householders' permission.

The city permits the Newspaper Trust to erect stands on the sidewalks and use them without asking permission of abutting property owners.

But when the Newspaper Trust tells the city to clean off the sidewalks and keep them clean.

Commissioner McGann issues an order for the owners or occupants of building to do the work.

Talk about forcing property owners to do the city's work of cleaning its sidewalks is all rot.

The City of Chicago has nulled down its ownership and responsibility for the care of sidewalks in a number of ordinances.

Not the least of these is its giving permission for newspaper stands on sidewalks for the sale of daily papers—excluding all others—without asking the permission of the abutting property owner.

Another is the city ordinance prohibiting property owners from trimming trees planted by them in sidewalk space, without paying the city for a permit to do so.

The ordinance authorizing newspaper stands faces the city's responsibility for sidewalk care on the city itself. It is so interesting at this time that we reproduce it:

Section 1. That Section 2471 of the Chicago Code of 1911 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2471. Newspaper Stands. The Commissioner of Public Works is hereby authorized to permit stands to be maintained on the public streets, between the hours of 5 a. m. and 8 p. m., which shall be used for the purpose of exhibiting for sale daily newspapers printed and published in Chicago. Such stands as authorized shall not exceed the following dimensions: Base:

Width 28 inches
Depth 23 inches
Height 32 inches

Top:
Width 40 inches
Depth 26 inches
Height (back board) 17 inches

Nothing shall be exhibited, offered or sold therefrom except daily papers as above described. All such stands shall be removed at the discretion of the Mayor or Commissioner of Public Works."

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its passage.

A mayoralty conference between progressive and republican leaders held Monday at the request of the republicans gave slight results.

The republicans present were David

F. Matchett, Charles S. Deneen and Joseph F. Haas. The progressives who attended were State Chairman Harold L. Ickes, County Chairman M. J. Dempsey and Charles H. Sergel.

Robert M. Switzer's headquarters in the Mayoralty Campaign have been opened at the Hotel Sherman. The campaign committee headed by Henry Stuckert, with Francis D. Conner as secretary, met and decided it would get the Switzer campaign well under way before further consideration is given to the county clerk's running mates on the city ticket. Mr. Conner is considered the probable choice as candidate for city treasurer.

Mayor Harrison has decided to manage his own campaign with the assistance of his secretary, Charles C. Fitzmorris. It is expected, however, that auxiliary headquarters will be opened in the Briggs house.

The Switzer platform was practically completed, and political observers predicted that its publication will mark the beginning of open hostilities which will make the coming campaign the bitterest primary battle that has ever been held. The mayor's comprehensive subway scheme will not be treated as kindly in the county clerk's document as friends of the plan might desire.

Harrison lieutenants declare the mayor is loaded with ammunition for big game and the minute definite hostilities are opened is prepared to go before the people with figures and facts.

"If I come out a winner in this campaign, as I confidently expect to you will have somebody in the mayor's office to come in and say 'Hello!' to," said Mr. Switzer. "You can come through the door, for it will always be open. Also you will get a welcome and not a chill when you get inside, no matter how torrid the temperature is outside."

"My platform is not completed yet, but you can be sure that every plank in it will bear the acid test and that it will be along lines of the best ideas of the city. Thousands of men are walking our streets to-day who want work, not charity. We want a man in the mayor's chair who will start doing things the day he is elected and not make a record of three and a half years of idleness and six months of promises."

Organization of a German-American Switzer club was started, according to a call for a meeting sent out by Dr. John Kercher, Fred Wenig and Joseph Kemmerling, at 203 East 37th street.

The Progressive-Republican club of the Thirty-third ward has come out for Ald. Charles E. Merriam for mayor and Monday afternoon presented him with a petition asking him to announce his candidacy. The Seventh ward alderman said he would make his answer later.

Little satisfaction was obtained by the republican subcommittee appointed to sound out the intentions of

progressive and non-partisan leaders. The progressive county committee will meet to decide whether it will endorse a candidate in the primaries. The anti-Ickes faction will put Ald. Jacob A. Hey in the field for the mayoralty nomination, regardless of the stand taken by the majority of the ward committeemen of the party.

A spirit of economy prevails at the Harrison headquarters, which has resulted in giving the Switzer forces a laugh. The invitations to the women to get out and work for Harrison are being sent out on letter heads used

the two leading Democratic candidates.

"I have some forty-two centimeter guns that I will fire when the proper time comes," said Mayor Harrison. "There are lots of things that I can say about my opponents."

"We also have our big guns and plenty of ammunition," retorted Mr. Switzer. "What is more, we know that the ammunition is sure fire, for Harrison himself furnished it."

Larry McGann has been on the public payroll so long that he thinks the Public eats out of his hand.

Organization of city precincts in behalf of the William Hale Thompson candidacy for the republican mayoralty nomination have been practically completed. The formation of ward clubs has progressed until nearly every ward is represented.

In addition a sectional club composed of representatives from eight northwestern wards has been organized with George Hitzman, republican ward committeeman of the Thirty-third ward as chairman, and Charles K. Todd, Thirty-fifth ward committeeman as secretary.

WILL HURT THE PARK

Colonel Milton J. Foreman Wants to Build a Big Cavalry Armory in Lincoln Park.

There Are Too Many Buildings in The Park Now, But This Would Kill Pleasure Ground.

Lincoln Park has more big buildings now than a pleasure ground ought to have.

North Side citizens are up in arms over the latest scheme, which in their opinion would kill the park entirely.

A new armory for the 1st cavalry regiment of the Illinois national guard, to be erected in Lincoln park, on the site now occupied by the old Lincoln park barn, near the north lagoon, is a plan in prospect in connection with which Col. Milton J. Foreman, commander of the regiment, and Adj. Gen. Frank S. Dickson met in discussion. Nothing definite as yet has been decided, and it is believed Gov. Dunne is unwilling to hasten it to completion until it has been thor-

SANITARY WORK

John McGillen, Clerk of the Drainage District, Summarizes Accomplishments of All Departments in 1914.

General Political Gossip About the Mayoralty and the Other Places to be Filled Next Spring.

General Political Gossip from All the Camps About Candidates and Their Prospects in the Spring Election.

Mayoralty Fight Is Getting Hotter as the Time for Settling the Battle Draws Closer to Hand.

The following brief, but interesting resume of the work of the Sanitary District of Chicago, was compiled by John McGillen the efficient Clerk of the district:

The Sanitary District of Chicago concludes a year of great activity and considerable constructive accomplishment. The big work in hand is the Calumet-Sag Channel construction twelve sections of which are under way and upon which during the year \$1,250,000.00 of construction work has been performed and paid for and at contract prices unusually low. In that regard we have secured the full bene-

complished and the work of completion being vigorously pushed to an early finish.

For the relief of the towns of Cicero, Berwyn, Morton Grove and intermediate adjacent villages by caring for their sewage and providing modern and proper outlets toward the Sanitary District Channel thus protecting the water supply and health of another three hundred thousand people, we have built our sewage system known as South Fifty-sixth and South Fifty-second Avenue Sewer outlet and completed same within the year at a cost of \$170,000.00 and for \$7,500.00 more erected a Sedimentation Plant at Morton Grove and connected same with our general sewage design.

At an outlay already amounting to \$290,000.00 we began this year the construction of our North Shore Intersecting Sewage System connecting with our North Shore Channel at North end of Evanston and running thence North through Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Glencoe and reaching the North boundary line of Cook County, all designed to take the domestic sewage of that territory and prevent same from flowing into Lake Michigan which will prove a beneficent service to those communities and remove another menace to the pure waters of Lake Michigan. In the same neighborhoods protecting the Wilmette Harbor Inlet and dredging and deepening the District's North Shore Channel, there was expended during the year \$96,000.00 in round figures.

In our Electrical Department the main task has continued to be caring for and enlarging the city's electric street lighting system and during the year has installed and placed in service 3,836 new lighting units of 100 candlepower and 3,495 units of 600 candlepower each in various sections of the city.

Under our contract with the city the Sanitary District has lighted 504 miles of street and by changes from the old form of lighting has more than doubled the lighting in 362 miles of street. Under the rehabilitation clause of new contract with the city during the busy season of construction work, as the seasons permit the Sanitary Districts employes between 1,300 and 1,400 men at the best going wages, and usually according to the union scale of wages and were able to continue this year well toward the end of November with full labor crews.

Our roster of employes is now reduced less than 600 and used chiefly in the upkeep of our continuous undertaking as in the Electrical Department operating 24 hours a day with three shifts of men at 8 hours each.

In our financial affairs we have saved money and made money for the people at both ends. We have earned and received from interest on our bank balances for the last two years \$89,225.00 the largest interest earning for same period in the history of the Sanitary District and at the best rate of interest earning of any municipal corporation in Illinois. The city comptroller of Chicago has expressed his admiration for our method of handling our bank balances and also the hope the city might model after it.

No opportunity for earning a discount on our purchases from the merchants and material men of Chi-

cago has been allowed to escape and a very tidy sum has been earned by saving in that manner.

1914 saw the Sanitary District pay out for maturing bonds and interest on bonds \$2,327,720.00 of which \$621,720.00 was payment of interest on the existing bond issue of the District and the balance \$1,706,000.00 for payments of maturing bonds and leaves our outstanding bond issues amounting to \$14,037,000.00 with the new year: a low sum of bonds outstanding. No bonds have been issued by the Sanitary District since 1910. We often have inquiries from leading bond houses of the country and the hope expressed the District will have occasion shortly to issue new bonds, as its credit standing is high and its bond issues sought after.

Under the present administration the accounting division of the Sanitary District has been brought up to a plane of efficiency that it could not boast in its previous history. Several thousands of dollars have been collected on old accounts that had been considered in the past to be uncollectable. Cost order system has been modernized and hundreds of old orders which had remained open since the inauguration of the electrical department have been closed.

A system for the assurance of economy has been indorsed, the same being a series of accounts by which it will be determined month by month how much is spent for each commodity used by the District. Not even a pen or pencil can be purchased under this system without being made a matter of record.

A system of paying bills on which discounts can be earned has also been inaugurated with the result that between ten and twelve thousand dollars will be saved to the tax payers this year.

In the electrical department alone the saving on discounts in the last two months has been greater than it was in any previous year under other administrations.

A system of checking the time of employes against tardiness and absences has also been inaugurated with the result that loss of time except for sickness, has been reduced to a minimum and the general efficiency of the department as a whole, brought up to the highest standard.

Enough money has been saved to the tax payers through the discount system and collection of old bills to pay the salaries of the Clerk and Comptroller for the year.

JOHN MCGILLEN,
Clerk of the Sanitary District of Chicago.
December 29, 1914.

It is announced that the property owners of Chicago are to be subjected to a lot of needless and illegal expense and annoyance.

The streets belong to the city from lot line to lot line and the property owner who abuts them is taxed for sidewalk and street improvements.

The cleaning of the streets, sidewalks and all devolves upon the city. The high salaried aldermen and the higher salaried lawyers of the city now propose to make the property owner clean the streets.

Aside from the injustice of this proposition it is manifestly illegal as the courts have decided over and over again.

If the City Council would cut down



HENRY STUCKART,
Chairman of the Robert M. Switzer Mayoralty Campaign Committee.

during the recent county campaign. When the Harrison field workers saw these letters they were dumfounded at first.

On the advisory committee appeared the names of John P. Hopkins, Thomas J. Webb, George E. Brennan, Andrew J. Graham and other out and out Sullivan men who are known to be backing County Clerk Switzer.

"I would suggest that they call in that stationery," Mayor Harrison laughingly declared.

It appears certain that voters will not lack information regarding the qualifications and disqualifications of

Col. Foreman has on hand a \$250,000 appropriation to take care of the new structure and is anxious to begin to build as soon as possible.

Public sentiment with reference to the desirability of the armory on the site suggested is sought by Gov. Dunne before he seals with his approval the scheme to build in the north side park, and it was thought that the conference between Col. Foreman and Adj. Gen. Dickson would do much to hasten the scheme to a conclusion, one way or another.

fit of the keenest competition and the lowest unit price. We also finished the task of dredging and cleansing Bubbly Creek, so long a menace and a nuisance to the public health.

In deepening and widening the Main Channel from Robey street to the Summit bridge, we accomplished \$225,000.00 of permanent improvement at low contract prices. \$100,000.00 was spent in constructing permanent docks abutting our own property lying East of Kedzie avenue.

For a modern designed steel bascule bridge over the river at Jackson Street \$90,000.00 of work already ac-